

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9, 15, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wu (US 2004/0023546 A1). Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (US 2004/0023546 A1). Claims 1, 11-14, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Koseki (US 6,450,830 B1). Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koseki (US 6,450,830 B1). Claims 17-19, 22 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (US 2004/0023546 A1) in view of Lok (US 6,093,057). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Claims 7, 8 and 10 have been converted from dependent form into independent form. This change in form does not narrow or limit the scope of the claims. The independent claim which claims 7, 8 and 10 were formerly dependent upon have not been cancelled. Therefore, the full scope of the doctrine of equivalents should apply to claims 7, 8 and 10 as if they were originally presented in independent form when the application was filed. In view of pages 6-7 of the office action, claims 7, 8 and 10 should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify applicants' claimed invention. Claim 1 claims that the first locking portion is configured to deflect in a direction angled relative to the first and second rotational movements. Wu merely discloses that the latch springs deflect outward and inward. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Wu of the claw portions 73 being configured to deflect in a direction angled relative to

the outward and inward movement of the portions 73. Koseki discloses barbs 66 which can be moved inward and outward. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Koseki of the claw barbs 66 being configured to deflect in a direction angled relative to the outward and inward movement of the barbs 66. Claim 1, on the other hand, claims that the first locking portion is configured to deflect in a direction angled relative to the first and second rotational movements. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though the claims dependent upon claim 1 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 30 has been amended above to clarify applicants' claimed invention. Claim 30 claims a method comprising unlocking the connector by a rotating movement of the locking arm from a locked position and a subsequent second angled movement of said locking arm relative to the rotating movement to an unlocked position. Wu does not disclose or suggest a method comprising unlocking the connector by a rotating movement of the locking arm from a locked position and a subsequent second angled movement of said locking arm relative to the rotating movement to an unlocked position. Koseki does not disclose or suggest a method comprising unlocking the connector by a rotating movement of the locking arm from a locked position and a subsequent second angled movement of said locking arm

Appl. No.: 10/578,423
Reply to Office Action of: 02/28/2007

relative to the rotating movement to an unlocked position. The features of claim 30 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claim 30 is patentable and should be allowed.

Claim 31 has been added to claim the features recited therein.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark F. Harrington
Mark F. Harrington (Reg. No. 31,686)

6/27/07
Date

Customer No.: 29683
Harrington & Smith, PC
4 Research Drive
Shelton, CT 06484-6212
203-925-9400

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date shown below in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

June 27, 2007
Date

Jodie Oronick
Name of Person Making Deposit